

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

4/27/2005

This letter is in response to your request for information regarding the Quality Assurance Program of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

1. The Diagnostic Laboratory is AAVLD accredited. This accreditation is to assist laboratories to meet or exceed the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties) (OIE) described in the OIE **Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories: Infectious Disease**.
2. The MVDL also has USDA (NVSL) and FDA accreditations. The laboratory participates in proficiency testing programs with both of these accrediting bodies.
3. The laboratory director is a Veterinary Pathologist
4. Pathology and Clinical Pathology systems are supervised by ACVP board certified pathologist. All pathology investigations and examinations are conducted by either board certified veterinary pathologist or a veterinarian with a PhD in anatomic pathology.
5. All technical supervisors and technologists hold Bachelors and or Masters Degrees in their field and hold accreditations or certifications in their respective specialties.
6. The quality system of MVDL has been established to formalize the quality practices employed to meet the scope, mission, and quality objectives of the laboratory. All elements of the quality system, those developed by the laboratory and those taken from outside sources, are formally documented.
7. Management has developed the technical requirements of its quality system recognizing that the factors in each section are critical in determining the correctness and reliability of tests. We have addressed these factors with policies and procedures to assure the certainty of the tests performed.

Melodee L. Kelly
MVDL, Quality Systems Manager